



MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Legislative Fiscal Division

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Legislative Fiscal Analyst
CLAYTON SCHENCK

September 8, 2005

Joyce DeCunzo, Administrator
Addictive and Mental Disorders Division
Department of Public Health and Human Services
PO Box 202905
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Ms. DeCunzo:

At it's June meeting, the Legislative Finance Committee voted to request updates on a number of projects and initiatives as discussed during HB2 deliberations by appropriations subcommittees and the legislature during the 2005 legislative session. This letter is to let you know that we will be requesting these updates within the general timetables envisioned by the legislature.

The updates are intended to be brief, informal performance updates, and accomplished in no more than 1 to 2 pages. Additional information is welcome, but the intent is to keep the reporting requirements simple and informative while not requiring extensive effort on the part of program managers. The committee is primarily interested in how the project or initiative is progressing, what issues you have encountered, and what the legislature can do to assist you during the interim in your efforts to meet your goals and/or to address any issues.

The following updates are requested.

1. FTE to plan for and implement development of community mental health crisis services.
2. Rate increases for psychiatric services.
3. Program for assertive community treatment.

Attached are the request forms for each of the updates requested.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any general questions about this request, please contact Taryn Purdy at 5383, or at tpurdy@mt.gov. If you have questions about a particular update, please contact the LFD staff person listed.

Sincerely,
Clayton Schenck

cc: Joan Miles
Frieda Houser

Information Request – Legislative Finance Committee

Purpose

By September 23, 2005, please provide a 1-2 page summary on the projects/initiatives listed.

Specifically:

How is this initiative going? What are the results of your efforts? What problems have you encountered? How can the legislature assist in this effort or with issues that have arisen?

You may email your response to the LFD contact listed below.

Information

Agency: DPHHS

Division/Program: Addictive and Mental Disorders Division

Subject: FTE to plan for implement development of community mental health crisis services

LFD Contact: Steinbeck, Lois

Agency Contact: Joyce DeCunzo/Lou Thompson (Please fill in agency contact person)

Specific Request for Information/Action as Discussed by the Legislature/Subcommittee During the Legislative Session

Report on implementation:

1. Hire date of all FTE
2. Plan adopted for development and implementation of crisis services
3. Progress towards implementation
4. Other duties provided by the FTE
5. Outcome measures to facilitate legislative eval of effectiveness of the regional FTE

Response

Using the specific components above, what are you doing with regard to this project/initiative and how is it going? Position descriptions were developed and advertised at an entry level of Grade 15 (\$31,085). Recruitment ended on August 31. There are between 10 and 15 applicants for each position and I am confident that the positions can be filled from this pool. Screening and scheduling of interviews will take place prior to the end of September. Positions should be filled by November 1, 2005.

General summary of duties and responsibilities for Community Program Officers:

- Functions in the role of liaison between the Mental Health Services Bureau central office and community providers, stakeholders, and consumers.
- Represents the Mental Health Bureau and assists in planning and development of community mental health crisis services working with Local Advisory Councils, Service Area Authorities, local government and other stakeholders.
- Collaborates with community stakeholders and participates in the planning, coordination, operation and monitoring of mental health services in the community.

- Identifies and analyzes training needs for providers, Local Advisory Councils, and Service Area Authorities to ensure accurate understanding and service delivery based on system changes/updates, organizational changes and demonstrated user needs.

What are the results so far? Please see above.

What challenges have arisen? None.

How can the legislature (Legislative Finance Committee) assist? No suggestions at this time.

Information Request – Legislative Finance Committee

Purpose

By September 23, 2005, please provide a 1-2 page summary on the projects/initiatives listed.

Specifically:

How is this initiative going? What are the results of your efforts? What problems have you encountered? How can the legislature assist in this effort or with issues that have arisen?

You may email your response to the LFD contact listed below.

Information

Agency: DPHHS

Division/Program: Addictive and Mental Disorders Division

Subject: Rate increases for psychiatric services

LFD Contact: Steinbeck, Lois

Agency Contact: Joyce DeCunzo/Lou Thompson (Please fill in agency contact person)

Specific Request for Information/Action as Discussed by the Legislature/Subcommittee During the Legislative Session

Report on implementation:

1. Amount of the rate increase given
2. Number of services provided
3. Assessment of whether access to psychiatrists for low income person with serious/disabling mental illness was enhanced

Response

Using the specific components above, what are you doing with regard to this project/initiative and how is it going? The 20% rate increase will be implemented on October 1, 2005, retroactive to July 1, 2005. It is too soon to tell if the rate increase will have the desired effect of increasing access to psychiatrists for low-income persons with serious disabling mental illness.

What are the results so far? Utilization data will be evaluated as it becomes available.

What challenges have arisen? Implementation will require a mass adjustment of claims submitted by this provider type for services provided between July 1 and September 30, 2005 to ensure that the rate increase is provided for those services targeted by the appropriation.

How can the legislature (Legislative Finance Committee) assist? No suggestions at this time.

Information Request – Legislative Finance Committee

Purpose

By September 23, 2005, please provide a 1-2 page summary on the projects/initiatives listed.

Specifically:

How is this initiative going? What are the results of your efforts? What problems have you encountered? How can the legislature assist in this effort or with issues that have arisen?

You may email your response to the LFD contact listed below.

Information

Agency: DPHHS

Division/Program: Addictive and Mental Disorders Division

Subject: Program for assertive community treatment

LFD Contact: Steinbeck, Lois

Agency Contact: Joyce DeCunzo/Lou Thompson (Please fill in agency contact person)

Specific Request for Information/Action as Discussed by the Legislature/Subcommittee During the Legislative Session

Report on implementation:

1. Number of PACT teams
2. Number of persons served
3. PACT outcome measures

Response

Using the specific components above, what are you doing with regard to this project/initiative and how is it going? There are five PACT teams operational in Montana:

	Slots Available	Slots Filled as of 9/1/05
Helena	75	75
Billings	70	70
Great Falls	48 (up to 60 on 10/1)	40
Missoula	48 (up to 60 on 9/1)	44
Kalispell	48 (up to 60 on 9/1)	50

The three new teams will begin to expand the number of available slots in September and October based upon completion of an initial period of program and staff development and stabilization.

AMDD will reimburse for up to 20% of each teams slots for individuals enrolled in the Mental Health Services Plan. Contracts are being developed for each of the three Community Mental Health Centers who operate PACT teams.

Outcome measures will continue to be indications of recovery and successful integration into the community including competitive or supported employment, volunteer work, education and training, number of days of inpatient psychiatric care or crisis stabilization.

What are the results so far? Please see above.

What challenges have arisen? None.

How can the legislature (Legislative Finance Committee) assist? No suggestions at this time.